

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A linkage device that can be connected with at least one of another linkage devices and to itself, said linkage device comprising:
  - (a) a strip having a first end and a second end;
  - (b) a closure hub attached to said first end of said strip and having an opening to receive the second end of another linkage device;
  - (c) a locking mechanism within said closure hub;
  - (d) a connecting surface protruding from said strip and operable to secure said second end within said closure hub; and
  - (e) an application distinct tag connected to said linkage device.

2. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 1 further comprising an application distinct tag signifying a specific use.

Claims 3-11 (Canceled).

12. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 1 further comprising a power source.

13. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 12 wherein said power source comprises at least one of a battery within said linkage device, an external power source, and inductive power supply wherein power is supplied by connecting said strip to said hub forming a conductive loop that can in turn have current induced within it from an external electromagnetic frequency flux.

Claims 14-17 (Canceled).

18. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 1 wherein said device is made from biodegradable material.

Claims 19-22 (Canceled).

23. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 2 wherein information on said application distinct tag is detectable by photon activation.

24. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 23 wherein said photon activation comprises at least one of laser photon activation, visible light photon activation, radio frequency photon activation, X-ray photon activation, and infrared photon activation.

Claims 25-27 (Canceled).

28. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 1 wherein said tampering device further comprises a plurality of fiber optic strands within said linkage device wherein said strands possess unique frequency characteristics which will change when said linkage device is tampered with.

29. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 1 wherein said tampering device further comprises electrically conductive material with a known resistance wherein said resistance will change when said linkage device is tampered with.

30. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 1 further comprising a power connection device to provide electrical power from a remote power source to said linkage device.

31. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 29 wherein said power connection device provides power through said closure hub.

32. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 30 wherein said power connection device provides power to said linkage device and said power is inductively captured for use when said strip and said hub are engaged.

Claim 33 (Canceled).

34. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 33 wherein said device ceases to heat once a specific temperature is obtained for a specific time period.

Claim 35 (Canceled).

36. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 1 wherein said closure hub comprises a plurality of openings to accept a plurality of second ends.

Claims 37-41 (Canceled).

42. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 40 wherein said application distinct tag comprises a microchip which stores information.

43. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 42 wherein said application distinct tag emits a signal which is used to determine a location of said linkage device.

Claims 44-53 (Canceled).

54. (Withdrawn) The linkage device of claim 50 wherein said hub comprises a plurality of openings to receive a plurality of strips.

Claims 55-97 (Canceled).

98. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A linkage device of claim 1 that can be connected with at least one of another linkage devices and to itself, said linkage device comprising:

- (a) a strip having a first end and a second end;
- (b) a closure hub attached to said first end of said strip and having an opening to receive at least one of the strip of another linkage device and the strip in of itself;
- (c) a locking mechanism within said closure hub;
- (d) a connecting surface protruding from said strip and operable to secure said second end within said closure hub;
- (e) an application distinct tag connected to said linkage device; and
- (f) wherein changes in said application distinct tag identify whether the linkage device has been tampered with.

99. (Currently Amended) The linkage device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 98 wherein said device is made from biodegradable material.

100. (Currently Amended) The linkage device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 98 wherein information on said application distinct tag is detectable by photon activation.

101. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A linkage device of claim 100 that can be connected with at least one of another linkage devices and to itself, said linkage device comprising:

- (a) a strip having a first end and a second end;

(b) a closure hub attached to said first end of said strip and having an opening to receive at least one of the strip in of itself and the strip of another linkage device;

(c) a locking mechanism within said closure hub;

(d) a connecting surface protruding from said strip and operable to secure said second end within said closure hub;

(e) an application distinct tag connected to said linkage device;

(f) wherein information on said application distinct tag is detectable by photon activation; and

(g) wherein said photon activation comprises at least one of laser photon activation, visible light photon activation, radio frequency photon activation, X-ray photon activation, and infrared photon activation.

102. (Currently Amended) The A linkage device of claim 1 that can be connected with at least one of another linkage devices and to itself, said linkage device comprising:

(a) a strip having a first end and a second end;

(b) a closure hub attached to said first end of said strip and having an opening to receive at least one of the strip in of itself and the strip of another linkage device;

(c) a locking mechanism within said closure hub;

(d) a connecting surface protruding from said strip and operable to secure said second end within said closure hub;

(e) an application distinct tag connected to said linkage device; and

(f) wherein said application distinct tag further comprises a plurality of fiber optic strands within said linkage device wherein said strands possess unique frequency characteristics which will change when said linkage device is tampered with.

103. (Currently Amended) The linkage device of claim [[1]] 98 wherein said application distinct tag further comprises electrically conductive material with a known resistance wherein said resistance will change when said linkage device is tampered with.

104. (Currently Amended) The linkage device of claim [[1]] 98 wherein said application distinct tag comprises a microchip which stores information.

105. (Currently Amended) The linkage device of claim [[1]] 98 wherein said application distinct tag emits a signal which is used to determine a location of said linkage device.

106. (Currently Amended) The linkage device of claim [[1]] 98 wherein said hub comprises a plurality of openings to receive a plurality of strips.

107. (Currently Amended) The linkage device of claim [[1]] 98 further comprising a plurality of strips located on a plurality of surfaces of the hub.

108. (Currently Amended) The linkage device of claim [[1]] 98 further comprising a signage area wherein when a plurality of linkage devices are connected a complete sign is formed.

109. (Currently Amended) The linkage device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 98 wherein the strip is of a length to allow the second end of the strip to connect to the opening in the closure hub.

110. (New) The linkage device of claim 98 wherein the application distinct tag signifies a specific use.

111. (New) The linkage device of claim 98 further comprising a power source.

112. (New) The linkage device of claim 111 wherein said power source comprises at least one of a battery within said linkage device, an external power source, and inductive power supply wherein power is supplied by connecting said strip to said hub forming a conductive loop that can in turn have current induced within it from an external electromagnetic frequency flux.

113. (New) The linkage device of claim 98 further comprising a power connection device to provide electrical power from a remote power source to said linkage device.

114. (New) The linkage device of claim 98 wherein said application distinct tag comprises a microchip which stores information.

115. (New) The linkage device of claim 98 wherein said application distinct tag emits a signal which is used to determine a location of said linkage device.

116. (New ) The linkage device of claim 101 wherein the application distinct tag signifies a specific use.

117. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 further comprising a power source.

118. (New) The linkage device of claim 117 wherein said power source comprises at least one of a battery within said linkage device, an external power source, and inductive power supply wherein power is supplied by connecting said strip to said hub forming a conductive loop that can in turn have current induced within it from an external electromagnetic frequency flux.

119. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 further comprising a power connection device to provide electrical power from a remote power source to said linkage device.

120. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 wherein said application distinct tag comprises a microchip which stores information.

121. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 wherein said application distinct tag emits a signal which is used to determine a location of said linkage device.

122. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 wherein said device is made from biodegradable material.

123. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 wherein said application distinct tag further comprises electrically conductive material with a known



resistance wherein said resistance will change when said linkage device is tampered with.

124 (New) The linkage device of claim 101 wherein said application distinct tag comprises a microchip which stores information.

125. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 wherein said application distinct tag emits a signal which is used to determine a location of said linkage device.

126. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 wherein said hub comprises a plurality of openings to receive a plurality of strips.

127. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 further comprising a plurality of strips located on a plurality of surfaces of the hub.

128. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 further comprising a signage area wherein when a plurality of linkage devices are connected a complete sign is formed.

129. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 wherein the strip is of a length to allow the second end of the strip to connect to the opening in the closure hub.

130. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 wherein the application distinct tag signifies a specific use.

131. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 further comprising a power source.

132. (New) The linkage device of claim 131 wherein said power source comprises at least one of a battery within said linkage device, an external power source, and inductive power supply wherein power is supplied by connecting said strip to said hub forming a conductive loop that can in turn have current induced within it from an external electromagnetic frequency flux.

133. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 further comprising a power connection device to provide electrical power from a remote power source to said linkage device.

134. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 wherein said application distinct tag comprises a microchip which stores information.

135. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 wherein said application distinct tag emits a signal which is used to determine a location of said linkage device.

136. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 wherein said device is made from biodegradable material.

137. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 wherein said application distinct tag further comprises electrically conductive material with a known resistance wherein said resistance will change when said linkage device is tampered with.

138. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 wherein said application distinct tag emits a signal which is used to determine a location of said linkage device.

139. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 wherein said hub comprises a plurality of openings to receive a plurality of strips.

140. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 further comprising a plurality of strips located on a plurality of surfaces of the hub.

141. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 further comprising a signage area wherein when a plurality of linkage devices are connected a complete sign is formed.

142. (New) The linkage device of claim 102 wherein the strip is of a length to allow the second end of the strip to connect to the opening in the closure hub.

143. (New) The linkage device of claim 133 wherein said power connection device provides power through said closure hub.

144. (New) The linkage device of claim 133 wherein said power connection device provides power to said linkage device and said power is inductively captured for use when said strip and said hub are engaged.

145. (New) The linkage device of claim 98 wherein said application distinct tag further comprises electrically conductive material with a known resistance wherein said resistance will change when said linkage device is tampered with.

146. (New) The linkage device of claim 101 wherein said application distinct tag further comprises electrically conductive material with a known resistance wherein said resistance will change when said linkage device is tampered with.

147. (New) The linkage device of claim 113 wherein said power connection device provides power through said closure hub.

148. (New) The linkage device of claim 113 wherein said power connection device provides power to said linkage device and said power is inductively captured for use when said strip and said hub are engaged.

149. (New) The linkage device of claim 119 wherein said power connection device provides power through said closure hub.

150. (New) The linkage device of claim 119 wherein said power connection device provides power to said linkage device and said power is inductively captured for use when said strip and said hub are engaged.